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OGC 61-1317

OGC HAS REVIEWED.

4 August 1961

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] - Claim of Fifty-eight Cubans

1. A man appeared at the Central Building today claiming to be a Miami lawyer representing some fifty-eight Cubans. He was routed to us and came up to see me this afternoon. He identified himself as A. V. Bethencourt, 902 Biscayne Building, Miami, Florida, telephone number FR 308-83. (Martindale-Hubbell lists a man by that name at the Biscayne Building, born in 1918, admitted to the Florida Bar in 1951, B.B.A. and LL.B. from the University of Miami.)

2. Mr. Bethencourt stated that he has a power of attorney from some fifty-eight Cubans authorizing him to act for them. He did not have the document with him but assured me he could produce it. Also, he did not have the names of his fifty-eight clients but could furnish them to us. The Cubans were in the invasion effort; they have not received salary for the months of June and July and are demanding to be paid. He said there are also a number of wives of Cuban prisoners, not his clients, who are also making demands, and probably they will become his clients also. These individuals have been paid heretofore by U. S. Government checks. [REDACTED] has had some sort of command function with respect to these individuals, and they think he may have received from us, but failed to turn over to the fifty-eight, the money for June and July. Also, the [REDACTED] "owned the boats" and was involved in some way. [REDACTED] heads the faction with which [REDACTED] a, the [REDACTED] and the fifty-eight Cubans and, presumably, many others, are associated. He further stated that these Cubans were in a military status heretofore and still are, another invasion is being planned, and they are standing by to take part in it. Mr. Bethencourt was leaving for Miami this afternoon and was to meet with his clients and the wives Monday evening. They have been quite agitated, and if he returns without either money or information, they will be even more agitated.

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3. I told him I know nothing of Cuba. However, I do read the newspapers, and I would look into this and would hope to have some information by the time of his Monday night meeting. Mr. Bethencourt planned to call me again this afternoon before catching his plane, on the possibility I would have some information.

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4. I called [REDACTED] Deputy Chief, WH Division. After checking, [REDACTED] asked me to advise Mr. Bethencourt that he could be assured that we have not paid [REDACTED] anything which he has failed to pay over. This I relayed to Bethencourt late in the afternoon. [REDACTED] is checking further and we will be in touch on Monday.

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Assistant General Counsel

cc: Mr [REDACTED]

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OGC:RHL:cdk:elw

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